

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION EUR-02

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TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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UNCLAS OSLO 5238

FOR: IOR/M, IOP/M, IPS, IBS, IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TO CARTER-FORD DEBATES

THE CONSENSUS OF OPINION OF THE OSLO PRESS AND NORWEGIAN RADIO AND TV IS THAT CARTER WON WEDNESDAY'S DEBATE, PARTLY BECAUSE OF HIS AGGRESSIVE APPROACH AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF FORD'S STATEMENTS ABOUT EAST EUROPEAN POLITICS. HEADLINES SET THE TONE OF "DEFEAT FOR FORD", "KNOCK OUT VICTORY FOR CARTER", "FORD STUMBLED ON EAST EUROPEAN POLICY" AND "STORM OF PROTESTS AGAINST FORD BY EAST EUROPEAN IMMIGRANTS". NORWAY'S LEADING PAPER, AFTENPOSTEN, SAYS THE ROLS HAVE BEEN CHANGED AGAIN, AND FROM A POSITION OF A DWINDLING LEAD IN RECENT POLLS, CARTER IS NOW ON HIS WAY UP AFTER FORD'S UNEXPECTED "LOSS". NORWEGIAN TV'S COMMENTATOR SAID CARTER'S HAWK-LIKE APPROACH MAY CAUSE HIM SOME DIFFICULTIES AMONG LIBERAL DEMOCRATS. THE NORWEGIAN MEDIA AGREE IT WAS A GOOD, TOUGH DEBATE, AND "AS EXPECTED, IT DID NOT REVEAL ANY BASIC DISAGREEMENTS ON THE DIRECTION OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY," AFTENPOSTEN SAID. "THE DEBATE CONFIRMED THAT THERE WILL BE NO SENSATIONAL FOREIGN POLICY CHANGES SHOULD CARTER WIN," IT SAID. ITEM

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Message Attributes

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